

**Mendip Hills AONB SDF Panel Meeting**  
**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2008 10.30am- 11.30am**

Panel members

Present: Cllr Harvey Siggs (Partnership Vice Chairman) – Chairman, James Small (NFU), Nicole Epps (MDC), Tony Shepherd, Rachael Clarke  
 Apologies: Simon Whitmore (Mendip Society), Bob Handford (Bristol Water), Simon Gardiner

Mendip Hills AONB Officers present

Sarah Jackson Manager, Jim Hardcastle – Development Officer

Item		Actions
1.0	<b>Applications</b>	
1.1	<p><b>Fernhill Farm – 0708–001 Reedbed Wet System</b>            Further to advice received from the Environment Agency the applicant is today submitting a planning application supported by the EA. The scheme has been reduced and is not now accommodating the Big Green Gathering but as the liner required by EA is more expensive the costs have risen to £62,000 from the original £51200 submitted in Feb 2007. The SDF Panel had originally ring fenced £16000 contribution based on 40% of costs.</p> <p>James explained that Andrew Wear, the applicant was fully committed to see the scheme through despite increased costs. The Panel was confident that with the support of EA the planning application would go through.</p> <p><b>The SDF Panel agreed that to grant £16000</b> as there was no alternative funding available and the scheme would be a showcase for other similar projects.</p>	SJ Draft offer letter for Chairman
1.2	<p><b>Dormouse Link – 0708–013 – SCC Highways</b>            Application to create an artificial habitat bridge for Common Dormouse.</p> <p>Question was raised do they work. Jim said yes and in this location where the road is too wide to have linking trees to allow species to cross it is needed. Nicola felt that as match funding is in place and the project will get international recognition should support it.</p>	

	<p>Several people commented on costs of telegraph poles and mesh bridge but Jim explained significant costs are likely to be for road closure and contractors to install bridge.</p> <p><b>Agreed to offer grant of £1361</b></p>	<p>SJ to draft letter for Chairman</p>
1.3	<p><b>Trilith – 0708–014 Mendip Life on Film</b></p> <p>Interview local people to record memories and provide local knowledge to 3 film collections.</p> <p>Panel felt had substantially funded for last two years and at 84% request for funding, in view of funding availability at this <b>point it was agreed not to fund.</b></p> <p>Tony mentioned that Somerset Sound had recorded local interviews 2–3 yrs ago and Harvey mentioned National Trust national memories project that Trilith might source and save money on new interviews.</p>	<p>SJ Draft letter for Chairman</p>
1.4	<p><b>Rodney Stoke Parish Council– 0708–015 Renovation of the Pound</b></p> <p>Area originally created for holding animals is now overgrown proposal is to landscape.</p> <p>Panel's views were that they would like to see softer, landscaping suited to rural setting. Use of more grass rather than gravel and interpretation of the history of the Pound and Thankful Village. AONB could assist with volunteers and meet on site to assist parish council. Jim to make contact with the group.</p> <p><b>Agreed to offer £1000 subject to agreement with the AONB Service on a suitable scheme.</b></p>	<p>SJ Draft letter for Chairman</p>
2.0	<p><b>Future funding and meetings</b></p>	
2.1	<p>Agreed that should Fernhill Farm fail to get planning permission a special meeting would be held to reallocate funding subject to time available.</p>	
2.2	<p>Sarah reported that it is unknown at this time if there will be SDF funding in 2008/9.</p> <p>Agreed that all those who wished to stay on panel will be contacted as soon as situation is known. If funding is given but is in the region of 20,000 agreed not to recruit new panel but continue with the members we have.</p>	<p>SJ inform panel</p>
2.3	<p>Sarah reported that Simon Whitmore and Bob Handford were standing down having both done two years and unable to commit further time. Sarah will contact Ian</p>	<p>SJ to contact Ian</p>

	Chedgy to see if he wishes to continue.	
	<b>Meeting ended at 11.30am</b>	